Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SIL-01 CU-02 LAB-04 EB-07

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /037 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5579

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ARA/LA/MRSD O'GRADY

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, ELAB, PINT

SUBJECT: VISIT OF RETAIL CLERKS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION - RCIA

LEADERS

- 1. GROUP COMPOSED OF FIVE RCIA LEADERS AND TWO WIVES ARRIVED NOVEMBER 2 AND DEPARTED NOVEMBER 5. GROUP WAS LED BY FIET REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE, ELMER FOSTER.
- 2. ALTHOUGH GROUP WAS NOT OFFICIALLY INVITED BY GOC, LABOR MINISTRY GAVE THEM WARM WELCOME AND COMPLETE COOPERATION IN VISITNG AREAS AND UNIONS, AND GENERATED CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY ON THEIR (AND GOVERNMENT'S) BEHALF.
- 3. NEITHER EMBASSY NOR AIFLD WAS ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE OR SUPPORT. GROUP DID HOWEVER VISIT WITH LABATT AND AMBASSADOR. IN MEETING WITH LATTER, THEY EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT FROM OUTWARD APPEARANCES COUNTRY SEEMS BUSY AND ORDERLY. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR ECONOMIC PLIGHT OF CHILEAN WORKERS AND FOR IMPAIRMENT OF TRADITIONAL UNION RIGHTS. THEY SAID THEY HAD REGISTERED THESE SAME CONCERNS IN MEETING WITH LABOR MINISTER NICANOR DIAZ AS WELL AS THEIR HOPE THAT A FAVORABLE LABOR CODE WOULD BE PRODUCED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO PRESS EXPRESSED LOW-KEY CONCERN OVER UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION.

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4. COMMENT: TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS WAS FIRST LABOR DELEGATION TO

VISIT CHILE WHICH COULD BE TERMED RELATIVELY FRIENDLY TO PRESENT GOC. LATRET TOOK FULL ADVANTAGE OF EVENT BY OFFERING RED-CARPET TREATMENT AND EXPLOITING VISIT IN PRESS. IRONICALLY GROUP'S ENTRY WAS HELD UP IN BUENOS AIRES FOR TWO DAYS BECAUSE OF NEW REGULATION ORDERED BY PRESIDENT PINOCHET THAT ALL VISITN G LABOR DELEGATIONS MUST WAIT 48 HOURS FOR CHILEAN VISAS. REGULATION WAS REPORTEDLY MOTIVATED BY RECENT "FLASH"VISIT OF ICFTU - JACK JONES DELEGATION.

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: VISITS, MEETINGS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS

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Subject: VISIT OF RETAIL CLERKS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION - RCIA LEADERS TAGS: ELAB, PINT, CI, RCIA
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